

## News

### Cities, county receive defibrillator equipment

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City and county emergency officials in Poinsett County have a new important piece of equipment in helping to treat individuals in emergency situations.

In a ceremony last Saturday afternoon, officials with the Poinsett County Coalition announced that they had received six automatic external defibrillators from the Arkansas Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems, through a grant that gave the machines to agencies throughout the state.

The equipment, which is used on individuals who have heart attacks or other heart-related problems were given to the Poinsett County Sheriff's Department and the cities of Lepanto, Marked Tree and Tyronza, as well as the Central community outside Trumann. Officials with the coalition told the Tri-City Tribune that the city of Fisher received an AED last year as a result of receiving a similar grant.

The defibrillators, which are carried in a back pack have several features that allow emergency officials to help with individuals who have trouble. The AED's have a battery pack, which contains a 9-volt battery for backup power, while the battery in the AED lasts for five years. The AED also has a voice-activated system that tells an emergency worker when the AED is ready to use. By receiving the grant, cities who agree to use the AED's must have them in a mobile environment and must use them for three years.

Poinsett County Sheriff Larry Mills told the Tri-City Tribune that the AED's will be a crucial part of his department. Sheriff Mills said, "They are a valuable tool and we are glad to have them. We hope to not have to use them, but they are at least there." Mills told the Tri-City Tribune that he plans to place one of the AED's in a patrol car that works days and one in a patrol car that works nights, so that the AED's could be used 24 hours a day. Mills also credited Rob Fox of Riverside Ambulance with helping to secure the funding for the AED's, which came at a cost of \$840 a piece.

Poinsett County Judge Doyle Hillis presented each of the communities and agencies their defibrillator at a ceremony at the Marked Tree District Courtroom. Receiving the AED's were Poinsett County Sheriff Larry Mills, Marked Tree Fire Chief Danny Johnson, David Layman of the Lepanto Fire Department, Rob Fox of the Tyronza Fire Department and Bo Hickey of the Central Fire Department.



**MTFD received AED from state Poinsett County Judge Doyle Hillis presented Marked Tree Fire Chief Danny Johnson with an Automatic External Defibrillator at the Marked Tree District Courtroom. The AED, which is used on victims of heart attacks and heart-related problems were presented to the Poinsett County Sheriff's Department and the cities of Lepanto, Marked Tree, Tyronza, as well as the Central community near Trumann. (Tribune Photo/Michael Wilkey)**